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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 847
By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Gail W. Disney, First
Lady of Loudon County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Gail W. Disney, who has recently been selected as the First Lady of Loudon County for 2002 by the Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in recognition of her outstanding service to her church and her community; she will be honored during the annual First Lady Banquet on April 27, 2002 at the Greenback Community Center; and

WHEREAS, a native of Greenback, she is the daughter of Wilma Woods and the late Richard Woods; and

WHEREAS, she has been an active and invaluable member of her community since her youth; she graduated as Valedictorian of her high school class after serving as Head Cheerleader and earning recognition as "Miss Greenback High School" and "Most Likely to Succeed"; and

WHEREAS, she was 1961 Miss Blount County and was also first runner-up for Miss Loudon County; and

WHEREAS, possessing a keen mind and a nimble wit, Mrs. Disney is a Professor Emeritus of The University of Tennessee of Knoxville, from which she took a well-deserved retirement three years ago; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as a Professor and Head of Food, Nutrition, and Health for the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, with several important statewide programs under her direction, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program for food stamp recipients and general nutrition, and a health and food safety program for youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, prior to employing her great talents with the Extension Service, she earned the respect and admiration of her peers and students while serving as a member of the teaching and research faculty of the Nutrition Department of the College of Human Ecology for nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Disney's work is known worldwide and has made a significant positive impact on our world; she developed a video series on food safety that is used nationwide and around the world, and she has authored thirty-six research publications, eighty-nine consumer publications, and more than two hundred news release on nutrition, food safety, and food preservation; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her groundbreaking work, she has been awarded prestigious memberships in Epsilon Sigma Phi, an honorary Extension fraternity, Gamma Sigma Delta, an agriculture honor fraternity, Sigma Xi, an honorary research fraternity, and Omicron Nu, a home economics honor society; and

WHEREAS, additionally, she has received numerous awards recognizing her excellence as an educator, researcher and citizen, including State and District Tennessee Home

Economics Honor Awards and recognition from the United State Department of Agriculture for her outstanding contributions in establishing the Tennessee Lifetime Nutrition Alliance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her remarkable professional excellence, Dr. Disney has always found time to contribute to important civic organizations and activities, such as the March of Dimes, the Kidney Foundation, the American Heart Association, the Loudon County Beautification Board, the Church Women United Day Care Assistance Program, and the Loudon County Education Task Force, which she served as President; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, she directed a community youth musical, *Tell It Like It Is*, and she has served as President of the Greenback Parent-Teacher Organization, a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and a 4-H Volunteer Leader; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, she is an active member of her church congregation; for many years, she was a church organist and choir director for Greenback First Presbyterian Church; she was also an elder, teacher, and assistant organist at Pine Grove Presbyterian Church, where she assists with the children's chime choir; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Disney speaks passionately about her faith and has said, "I am spiritually nourished by church activities and several Bible studies in which I participate. My faith in God is my underlying support and source of comfort and peace"; and

WHEREAS, she is most grateful for the love and companionship she shared for thirty-five years with her husband, Mike Disney, who has departed this world for a far better existence; she is the proud and devoted mother of two children, David and Kristi; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Disney epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she is most worthy of this most recent honor and has said, "Being chosen as 2002 First Lady is one of the most meaningful honors I have received because it comes from my community and friends I have grown up with and lived among my whole life. Being blessed with the opportunity to live where I do enables me to thrive in a safe, supportive environment among many wonderful people who are always there to encourage and help in any way"; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Gail W. Disney for her dedication to Loudon County, the State of Tennessee and her fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Gail W. Disney for her meritorious service to her community and church and join in celebrating her selection by the Laureate Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi as the 2002 First Lady of Loudon County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.